

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00467 140741Z

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6127

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USUN NEW YORK 4021

USLO PEKIN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0467

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REF ADDED)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN

SUBJ: VIETNAM

REF : MOSCOW 0466

1. AFTER DELIVERING THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON VIETNAM TO THE MFA'S USA DIVISION (REFTEL), POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON YURIY KUZNETSOV, ACTING CHIEF OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE.

2. AFTER POLITICAL COUNSELOR OUTLINED MAIN POINTS OF THE NOTE, STRESSING GRAVITY OF CURRENT SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND NEED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00467 140741Z

FOR HANOI TO CEASE ITS FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENTS,

KUZNETSOV REPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE "SOME DIFFERENCES OF PERCEPTION" REGARDING VIETNAM. MOSCOW'S "PRINCIPLED POSITION," HE EMPHASIZED, IS THAT THE PARIS AGREEMENT MUST BE STRICTLY IMPLEMENTED IN ALL PARTICULARS BY ALL PARTIES. THE SOVIETS' IMPRESSION, HE SAID, IS THAT THE SAIGON SIDE HAS NOT ABIDED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT FROM THE BEGINNING. THE QUESTION OF A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IS CENTRAL TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PARIS AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THE FORMATION OF A "THIRD FORCE" TO ACT AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE TWO ANTAGONISTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SETTLE THINGS SOLELY BETWEEN THEMSELVES, SAID KUZNETSOV. THEREFORE THIS "THIRD FORCE" HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY. BUT, SAID KUZNETSOV, THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO COOPERATE IN THE FORMATION OF A THIRD FORCE AS CALLED FOR BY THE PARIS AGREEMENTS.

3. ON THE MILITARY SIDE, KUZNETSOV CONTINUED, THE "LIBERATION FORCES" PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 15, 1973, A DETAILED LIST OF VIOLATIONS BY THE SAIGON SIDE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. HE SAID THERE WAS NO POINT IN ARGUING ABOUT THESE "DETAILED AND COMPLICATED MATTERS," ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN OVER THESE POINT PREVIOUSLY AND CLEARLY DISAGREE ON INTERPRETATIONS OF FACTS. BUT IT IS CLEAR, HE SAID, THAT WHEN ONE SIDE UNDERTAKES MILITARY PROVOCATION, THE OTHER RESPONDS.

4. THE DRV AND THE PRG, HE ASSERTED, ARE PREPARED FOR TALKS ON THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION, BUT SAIGON HAS NOT AGREED. IN THE SOVIET VIEW, HE SAID, THE FAULT FOR THE BREAKING OFF OF THE TALKS IN PARIS AND SAIGON IN APRIL-MAY 1974, LIES WITH SAIGON. IF SOUTH VIETNAM IS TO HAVE PEACE AND STABILITY, IT IS NECESSARY TO MODIFY SAIGON'S POSITION.

5. POLITICAL COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT U.S., OF COURSE, COMPLETELY DISAGREES WITH SOVIET VIEWS RE CAUSE OF PRESENT DIFFICULT SITUATION IN VIETNAM. HOWEVER, SINCE BOTH WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW AGREED THAT PARIS AGREEMENTS FORM EXCELLENT BASIS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, IT INCUMBENT ON US TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO BRING ABOUT POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES. KUZNETSOV AT THIS POINT ADMITTED THAT SAIGON'S RECENT CALL FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE PARIS TALKS WAS "A POSITIVE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00467 140741Z

MOVE." UNFORTUNATELY, HE ADDED DRILY, IT SEEMS TO HAVE RESULTED MORE FROM MILITARY THAN FROM POLITICAL PRESSURES.

6. IN CONCLUSION, KUZNETSOV AGREED WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR'S COMMENT THAT THE PARIS ACCORDS HAS LARGELY REMOVED VIETNAM AS A MAJOR ISSUE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR AND ECHOED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOT AGAIN BECOME ONE.

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